OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting approved a number of projects in thrust areas to be taken up for implementation and reviewed the progress of various matters connected with the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology. The meeting was a follow-up of the agreement signed by the Prime Minister with General Secretary Gorbachove; there was no fresh agreement signed in the meeting.

**Citizenship to stateless Sri Lankan persons**

1073. SHRI K. GOPALAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Stateless Sri Lankan who have been given citizenship so far by respective countries under Shastri-Bhandranaike accord 1963;

(b) the number of such Stateless citizens still there in Sri Lanka;

(c) the number out of them likely to be given citizenship by Sri Lanka and India;

(d) by when all Stateless citizens are expected to be settled respectively in Sri Lanka and India; and

(e) what steps are being taken to solve the issue permanently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Under the terms of the Shastri Bandaranaike Agreement of 1964, as modified by the Sirimavo Indira Gandhi Agreement of 1974 and a subsequent agreement signed in January 1986, India has undertaken to grant citizenship to 506,000 and Sri Lanka to 469.000 stateless persons of recent Indian origin. Against the above quotas, India has so far granted citizenship to 420,133 and Sri Lanka to 211,153 accountable persons along with their respective natural increases.

(b) and (c) The number of persons whose applications still remain pending, i.e., 85,867 persons in the case of India and 257,847 in the case of Sri Lanka, remain stateless. Both countries are committed to fulfilling their respective obligations.

(d) As the grant of citizenships and the process of repatriation to India of Indian citizens is dependent on the applicants coming forward and completing all procedures, no definite time-frame can be given.

(e) Both Governments are in touch with each other concerning implementation of the agreements and grant of citizenship to the remaining persons.

**Pending cases and vacancies of Judges in Madras High Court**

1074. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases that are presently pending in Madras High Court and category-wise figures;

(b) the number of them that are more than (i) three (ii) five and (iii) ten years old and category-wise figures;

(c) the number of vacancies that occurred in Madras High Court along with its date and when each vacancy was filled up during the last three years;

(d) the number of total vacancies that are there in Madras High Court the date of each vacancy;